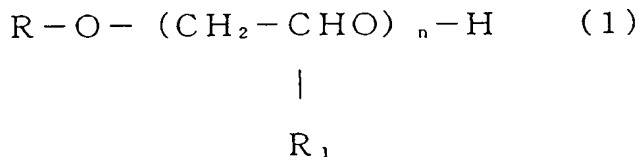


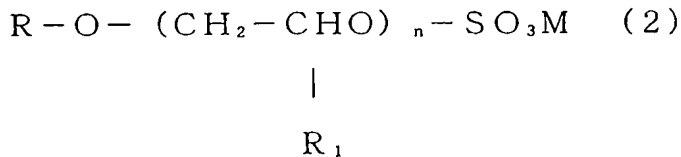
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A polychloroprene latex comprising a homopolymer of chloroprene or a copolymer of a chloroprene monomer with a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the chloroprene homopolymer or copolymer is one obtained by emulsion polymerization in the presence of from 0.5 to 15 parts by mass of a nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) and from 0.05 to 2 parts by mass of an anionic emulsifier having the formula (2), per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer:



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200, and R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group,



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, and M is a monovalent cation.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) comprises two types of nonionic emulsifiers having HLB values being apart by at least 2 from each other.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) comprises a nonionic emulsifier having a HLB value of at least 9 and less than 16, and a nonionic emulsifier having a HLB value of at least 16 and having no aromatic ring.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The polychloroprene latex according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein substituent R in the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) contains at least one styrene structure.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The polychloroprene latex according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, which is contained in an amount of from 0.3 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of the copolymer.

Claim 7 (Original): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 6, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is methacrylic acid, acrylic acid or a mixture thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The polychloroprene latex according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, which has a gel content of at most 60 mass%.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An aqueous adhesive composition obtained by adding a tackifier resin to the polychloroprene latex as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1.

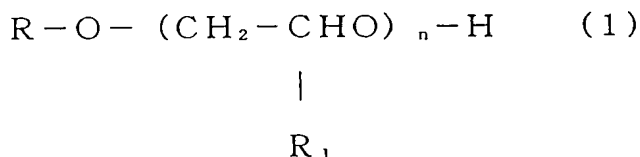
Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An aqueous adhesive composition obtained by adding a tackifier resin and a metal oxide to the polychloroprene latex as defined in ~~any one~~ of ~~Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A two-part aqueous adhesive composition which is a combination of a main agent containing as the main component the polychloroprene latex as defined in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, and a curing agent.

Claim 12 (Original): The two-part aqueous adhesive composition according to Claim 11, wherein the main agent contains a metal oxide.

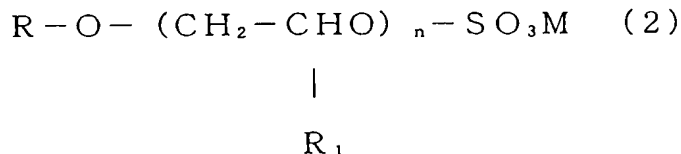
Claim 13 (Original): The two-part aqueous adhesive composition according to Claim 11 or 12, wherein the curing agent is a water-dispersible isocyanate compound.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a polychloroprene latex, ~~characterized by~~ comprising emulsion-polymerizing chloroprene, or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of from 0.5 to 15 parts by mass of a nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) and from 0.05 to 2 parts by mass of an anionic emulsifier having the formula (2), per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer:



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200,

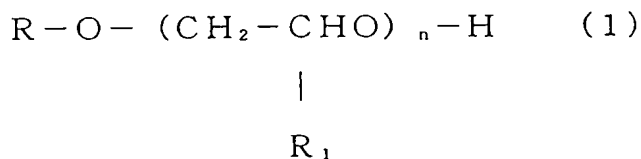
and R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group,



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one benzene ring and/or naphthalene ring, n is from 1 to 200, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, and M is a monovalent cation.

Claim 15 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 1, wherein the anionic emulsifier having the formula (2) is a sodium sulfonate of a polyoxyalkylene distyrylphenyl ether.

Claim 16 (New): A polychloroprene latex comprising a homopolymer of chloroprene or a copolymer of a chloroprene monomer with a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, wherein the chloroprene homopolymer or copolymer is one obtained by emulsion polymerization in the presence of from 0.5 to 15 parts by mass of a nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) and from 0.05 to 0.5 parts by mass of an anionic emulsifier comprising an aromatic sulfonic acid/formaline condensate, per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer:



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one unsubstituted or substituted styrylphenyl group, n is from 1 to 200, and R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group.

Claim 17 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 16, wherein the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) comprises two types of nonionic emulsifiers having HLB values being apart by at least 2 from each other.

Claim 18 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 16, wherein the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) comprises a nonionic emulsifier having a HLB value of at least 9 and less than 16, and a nonionic emulsifier having a HLB value of at least 16 and having no aromatic ring.

Claim 19 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 16, wherein substituent R in the nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) contains at least one styrene structure.

Claim 20 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 16, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, which is contained in an amount of from 0.3 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of the copolymer.

Claim 21 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 20, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is methacrylic acid, acrylic acid or a mixture thereof.

Claim 22 (New): The polychloroprene latex according to Claim 16, which has a gel content of at most 60 mass%.

Claim 23 (New): An aqueous adhesive composition obtained by adding a tackifier resin to the polychloroprene latex as defined in Claim 16.

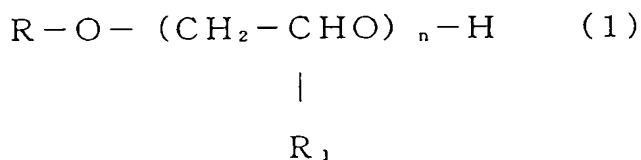
Claim 24 (New): An aqueous adhesive composition obtained by adding a tackifier resin and a metal oxide to the polychloroprene latex as defined in Claim 16.

Claim 25 (New): A two-part aqueous adhesive composition which is a combination of a main agent containing as the main component the polychloroprene latex as defined in Claim 16, and a curing agent.

Claim 26 (New): The two-part aqueous adhesive composition according to Claim 25, wherein the main agent contains a metal oxide.

Claim 27 (New): The two-part aqueous adhesive composition according to Claim 25, wherein the curing agent is a water-dispersible isocyanate compound.

Claim 28 (New): A process for producing a polychloroprene latex, comprising emulsion-polymerizing chloroprene, or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of from 0.5 to 15 parts by mass of a nonionic emulsifier having the formula (1) and from 0.05 to 0.5 parts by mass of an anionic emulsifier comprising an aromatic sulfonic acid/formaline condensate, per 100 parts by mass of the whole monomer:



wherein R is a substituent containing at least one unsubstituted or substituted styrylphenyl group, n is from 1 to 200,  
and R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group.